

A NOTE ON *BRACHYSCOME** *RARA* G.L. DAVIS (ASTERACEAE)

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Abstract

Brachyscome coongiensis Munir is a synonym of *B. rara* G.L. Davis. Notes on the type collections and recent collections are provided.

Davis (1955) described *Brachyscome rara* from specimens gathered by W. MacGillivray from the Wilson River, south-western Queensland, in September 1922. Briggs & Leigh (1988) recorded this as a '1K' species, i.e. one only known from the type collection. I subsequently searched for this species in August 1989 — but to no avail. Since then I have examined type material of both this species and the recently described *B. coongiensis* Munir (1987). It is apparent that the latter is conspecific with *B. rara*.

Thus, *Brachyscome rara* is now known to have been gathered from the Wilson River region and in adjacent north-east South Australia, the type of *B. coongiensis* and other South Australian specimens having been gathered in the Coongie Lakes region (see below). Collectors' notes indicate that the species grows in the cracking clay of floodplains, e.g. 'Low ephemeral chenopod shrub/forbland on heavy clay' (Gillen/Reid 852), 'Sporobolus mitchelli mixed grassland on cracking clay floodout' (Reid 712) and 'Floodplain in open *Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii* association' (Reid 229). All definite localities for this species, including the Wilson River, are within the Cooper River drainage basin, suggesting that *B. rara* may well be found in other localities within the basin.

***Brachyscome rara* G.L. Davis, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales 79: 204, figs 5-8 (1955).**

Holotype: MacGillivray s.n., Floodwaters of Wilson River, -ix.1922 (AD 98930057, formerly ADW 8118 & ex herb. Albert Morris). *Paratype*: (AD 98674106, formerly ADW 8118 & ex herb. Albert Morris). *Isoparatypes and probable isoparatypes*: AD 97626128 p.p. (ex herb. J. M. Black, see below).

Brachyscome coongiensis Munir, J. Adelaide Bot. Gard., 11: 53, fig. 1 (1988).

Holotype: Reid 1183, Coongie, Lake Eyre Basin, Clay flat, 1.ix.1987 (AD 98742084). *Isotypes*: AD 98749193, BRI 418002, MEL n.v., NSW n.v.

[*Brachyscome basaltica* auct. non F. Muell., J. M. Black, Fl. S. Aust., 1st ed., 583, fig. 246F (1929), as to AD 97626128 (ex herb. Black) but excluding var. *gracilis* Benth.]

Davis (l.c.) recorded that the holotype and paratypes of *B. rara* were housed in the herbarium of the Waite Institute, Glen Osmond (ADW). This herbarium has since been transferred to the State Herbarium of South Australia (AD) (Symon 1985) and specimens have received an AD number in addition to their ADW number. Unlike many taxonomists, including myself, when describing new species Davis never nominated a sheet of small specimens as the holotype, preferring to nominate a single specimen as the holotype. Any remaining individuals were paratypes. In such cases, unless it is clear that individual pieces have been taken from the holotype specimen, isotype specimens do not exist. In the case of

*The correct spelling of the name is at present *sub judice* with the Committee for Spermatophyta.

B. rara the holotype specimen, a small, seemingly entire plant, is the only one on AD 98930057. The three small branches on AD 98674106 are from one or more different individuals and perhaps have been removed from the specimens now in J. M. Black's herbarium.

On the top left-hand side of Black's composite sheet (AD 97626128), not examined by Davis, there are several branches referable to *B. basaltica* var. *gracilis*. The remainder of the sheet contains specimens of *B. rara* which were referred by Black to *B. basaltica* and clearly formed the basis for his description, including the figure of the fruit, of that species in the *Flora of South Australia* (Black 1929). Indeed Black refers to these specimens as 'typica' on the sheet. Two specimens on the lower, left-hand side are isoparatypes of the name *B. rara*, having been gathered by Dr McGillivray [sic] from the Wilson River in Sept. 1922. A further specimen on the right-hand side is also likely to be an isoparatype, although, besides citing the same collector and date Black has recorded 'Floodwaters of Wilson Riv. or C... R... [illegible] B Hill & Cordillo Down', suggesting that it may have been gathered elsewhere. A further specimen of *B. rara* on the sheet was gathered by R. Cockburn, in June 1916.

William D.K. MacGillivray, the collector of the type of *B. rara*, was a medical practitioner and settled in Broken Hill in 1901. He was a friend of Albert Morris and both made many collections of arid zone plants (Anon.). In September 1922 MacGillivray not only gathered type material of *B. rara*, but also collected type material of *Eremophila macgillivrayi* J.M. Black (Black 1926), not from the Wilson River, but Cordillo Downs. This is consistent with the confusing annotation on Black's sheet.

Specimens examined

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: *Alexander 2420*, Coongie Lakes area, channel leading into Lake Apachirie, 18.x.1983 (AD); *Cockburn*, between Goyders' Lagoon & Qld border, -vi.1916 (AD 97626128, ex herb. Black); *Conrick 1890*, Cooper Creek delta into Coongie Lake, 14.x.1986 (AD); *Conrick 2255*, Innamincka Stn, 4.xi.1987 (AD); *Gillen/Reid 852*, Lake Apachirie, 18.v.1987 (AD); *O'Malley 229*, Coongie Lakes, 25.i.1987 (AD); *Reid 712*, Coongie, floodout of Lake Tootoowarania, 20.iv.1987 (AD); *Reid 1142*, 2 km S Coongie, 15.ix.1987 (AD, DNA); *Reid 1147*, Embarka Swamp, 11.ix.1987 (AD); *Reid 1178*, Tirrawirra Swamp, 17.vii.1987 (AD); *Reid 1183*, Coongie, 1.ix.1987 (AD, holotype of *B. coongiensis*; AD, BRI, isotypes). *Reid 1689*, 15 km SSE Coongie, 16.viii.1988 (AD).

QUEENSLAND: *MacGillivray s.n.*, Floodwaters of Wilson River, -ix.1922 (AD 98930057, holotype of *B. rara*; AD 98674106 & AD 97626128, paratypes).

References

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